REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 14, 2005. Claims 74, 77 to 78, 80 to 81, 84 to 85, 87 to 88, 91 to 92, 94 to 95, 98 to 99, 101 to 102, 105 to 106 and 108 to 113 are in the application, and Claims 109 to 113 have been newly-added. Claims 74, 81, 88, 95 and 102 have been amended and are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 74, 75, 77 to 82, 84 to 89, 91 to 96, 98 to 103 and 105 to 108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 Screendumps ("PhotoDeluxe #1", "PhotoDeluxe #2" and "PhotoDeluxe #3") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,801 (Moon). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns tone control in an image processing apparatus. It provides a property page having at least first and second selection elements for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region. Among its many features, the present invention includes (i) a first appearance of a tone control region which includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve and (ii) a second appearance of a tone control region which includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

In Adobe PhotoDeluxe and other conventional systems, a user interface may provide basic control over picture quality. However, these interfaces only allow for limited management of tone control, and do not reflect subtle changes in the tone of an image in a

way that can be understood and manipulated by novice and experienced users alike.

The present invention addresses these shortcomings by providing a user interface which includes a property page having at least first and second selection elements for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region. A first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve, and a second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 74 as amended is directed towards a user interface. The user interface includes a property page for adjusting a tone curve for an image acquisition device, wherein the tone curve shows a transfer function for relating input tones of the image acquisition device to output tones. The property page includes at least first and second selection elements displayed within the property page, each of the at least first and second selection elements for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region of the property page. In addition, the tone control region and the property page are an integral part of a same displayed window. Further, the tone control region changes appearance such that a first appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the second selection element. Additionally, the first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in the tone curve, and the second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Independent Claim 81 as amended is directed towards a method for providing a user interface. The method includes the step of displaying a property page for adjusting a tone curve for an image acquisition device, wherein the tone curve shows a transfer function for relating input tones of the image acquisition device to output tones, and further displaying as part of the property page at least first and second selection elements, each of which for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region of the property page. The method additionally includes the step of changing the tone control region of the property page in response to selection of one of the first and second selection elements, such that a first appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the second selection element. Further, the control region and the property page are an integral part of a same displayed window. In addition, the first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in the tone curve, and the second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Independent Claim 88 as amended is directed toward an apparatus for providing a user interface. The apparatus includes a memory for storing executable process steps, including executable process steps for a user interface, as well as input means for inputting data, output means for outputting data, and a processor for executing the process steps stored in the memory. The apparatus executes the process steps so as to display a property page for adjusting a tone curve for an image acquisition device, wherein the tone

curve shows a transfer function for relating input tones of the image acquisition device to output tones, and so as to display as part of the property page at least first and second selection elements, each for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region of the property page. The apparatus also executes the process steps so as to change the tone control region of the property page in response to selection of one of the first and second selection elements, such that a first appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the second selection element. In addition, the control region and the property page are an integral part of a same displayed window. Also, the first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in the tone curve, and the second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Independent Claim 95 as amended is directed towards computer-executable process steps stored on a computer-readable medium, the process steps for use on a computer system to provide a user interface. The process steps include code to display a property page for adjusting a tone curve for an image acquisition device, wherein the tone curve shows a transfer function for relating input tones of the image acquisition device to output tones, as well as code to display as part of the property page at least first and second selection elements, each for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region of the property page. The steps also include code to change the tone control region of the property page in response to selection of one of the first and second selection elements, such that a first appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to

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selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the second selection element. The control region and the property page are an integral part of a same displayed window. In addition, the first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in the tone curve, and the second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Independent Claim 102 as amended is directed towards a computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps for use on a computer system to provide a user interface. The process steps include a displaying step to display a property page for adjusting a tone curve for an image acquisition device, wherein the tone curve shows a transfer function for relating input tones of the image acquisition device to output tones, as well as to display as part of the property page at least first and second selection elements, each for selecting and displaying a different appearance of a tone control region of the property page. The process steps further include a changing step to change the tone control region of the property page in response to selection of one of the first and second selection elements, such that a first appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the tone control region is displayed in response to selection of the second selection element. In addition, the control region and the property page are an integral part of a same displayed window. Also, the first appearance of the tone control region includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in the tone curve, and the second appearance of the tone control region includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

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The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention. In particular, the applied art is not seen to suggest or disclose at least the features of (i) a first appearance of a tone control region which includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve and (ii) a second appearance of a tone control region which includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 Screendumps ("PhotoDeluxe #1", "PhotoDeluxe #2" and "PhotoDeluxe #3") are not seen to disclose or suggest the current invention. As understood by Applicants, the Adobe PhotoDeluxe Screendumps disclose a user interface for altering digital images.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that PhotoDeluxe #1 (Figures 2 to 4) discloses a user interface having at least first and second selection elements, each corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the control region of the property page, wherein appearances of the control region are displayed in response to selection of the selection elements. Page 3 of the Office Action further asserts that PhotoDeluxe #3 (Fig. 2) continues the teaching of PhotoDeluxe #1 by including that the displayed portion of the property page which includes the control region changes appearance. Pages 3 to 4 of the Office Action assert that PhotoDeluxe #2 (Figures 1 to 4) further teaches that data corresponding to the same control can be input in a different manner in accordance with the different appearances of the control region of the property page based on the selection of the selection elements.

However, none of the Adobe PhotoDeluxe Screendumps are seen to

disclose or suggest a property page featuring a tone control region which includes a first appearance of a tone control region which includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve, and a second appearance of a tone control region which includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve. Specifically, none of the screen shots give any indication of the use of a tone curve at all, much less a tone curve that can reflect changes in tone or be directly manipulated by the user.

In addition, Moon is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the current invention. As understood by Applicants, Moon discloses a touch screen display for a cellular telephone or other small communications device which allows a user to easily navigate multiple menu features with his or her finger.

Page 4 of the Office Action asserts that Moon (Figure 4) discloses a user interface comprising a property page with selection elements, in which the control region and the property page are integral parts of the same displayed window. However, Moon is not seen to suggest tone control for an image at all, much less tone control using display and/or manipulation of a tone curve.

In the context of the rejection of now-cancelled Claim 79, page 5 of the Office Action asserts that PhotoDeluxe #1 (Figures 1 and 3) teaches a property page to provide tone control for an image acquisition device. However, PhotoDeluxe #1 is not seen to suggest or disclose at least the features of (i) a first appearance of a tone control region which includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve and (ii) a second appearance of a tone control region which includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, none of the applied references, either alone or in combination, are understood to disclose or suggest at least the features of a first appearance of a tone control region which includes user-manipulable controls whose manipulation is reflected in a tone curve, and a second appearance of a tone control region which includes a directly manipulable editable tone curve.

Accordingly, independent Claims 74, 81, 88, 95 and 102 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 74, 81, 88, 95 and 102 are therefore respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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